

# Come and See 3

John 4:29-30 "Come and see a man who told me everything I ever did! Could he possibly be the Messiah?" 30 So the people came streaming from the village to see him.

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# Cancel Culture

- The practice or tendency of engaging in mass canceling as a way of expressing disapproval and exerting social pressure. (Webster Dictionary)
  - Cancel culture or call-out culture is a modern form of ostracism in which someone is thrust out of social or professional circles – whether it be online, on social media, or in person. Those subject to this ostracism are said to have been "cancelled".  
Wikipedia
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**You don't have to be famous to be canceled.**

## **Cancel Culture – Old School Revisited!**

The greatest display of “Cancel Culture” was when humanity sought to cancel Jesus by nailing Him to the cross at Calvary!!!

Jesus had no place in His heart for the cancel culture, but He was wonderful at demonstrating God's love and grace to everyone.

Cancel Culture is: **Mean**  
**Vengeful**  
**Unforgiving**

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## Cancel Culture and the Church - *“If you disagree, just unfriend me now.”*

**‘What does it take to make a winning team? 3 Things:**

1. Get players in right condition (right with God/Salvation)
2. Teach them the fundamentals (Discipleship)
3. Teach them to play together as a team (Unity)

### **Jesus and the Winning Team**

**John 13:34-35** So now I am giving you a new commandment: **Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other.** 35 Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples." NLT

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**John 17:20-26** "I am praying not only for these disciples but also for all who will ever believe in me through their message. 21 I pray that they will all be one, just as you and I are one—as you are in me, Father, and I am in you. And may they be in us so that the world will believe you sent me. 22 "I have given them the glory you gave me, so they may be one as we are one. 23 I am in them and you are in me. May they experience such perfect unity that the world will know that you sent me and that you love them as much as you love me. 24 Father, I want these whom you have given me to be with me where I am. Then they can see all the glory you gave me because you loved me even before the world began! 25 "O righteous Father, the world doesn't know you, but I do; and these disciples know you sent me. 26 I have revealed you to them, and I will continue to do so. Then your love for me will be in them, and I will be in them."

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## Tensions in the Church – **Romans 14 – 15:7**

Paul knows that the church cannot be unified behind him in the spread of the gospel if they're not one with another in daily Christian living.

We have a problem!! **Legalism – Liberty**

The key to understanding Paul's directive is the last word/phrase in verse 1.

- The NIV renders it “disputable matters.”
  - The NKJ translates it as “doubtful things.”
  - And the ESV calls it “opinions.”
  - The original Greek word is *dialogismos*. You might hear our English word dialogue, in there. Its original meaning was reasoning that is self-based and therefore confused. **The term implies one confused mind interacting with other confused minds, each further reinforcing the original confusion.**
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What Paul is talking about here is **discerning what is right/wrong in matters that are neither commanded nor forbidden in Scripture**. They're matters of personal preference and historic tradition, which, when imposed on others, inevitably cause confusion, strife, ill will, abused consciences, and disharmony

The Dialogue Continues!! **Romans 14:13-23**

Paul raises the discussion of food and sacred days to a higher level. He began by suggesting that eating or not eating were equally valid choices; and they are, depending on where we are in our understanding. **But there's something even more important in the kingdom of God than being right, and that's to act in love.**

### **Legalism - Liberty or License**

The best definition of liberty is the freedom to lay down one's rights or desires for the well-being of another.

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## Paul's Admonitions:

### 1. Do not let your freedom hinder the spiritual progress of another believer

- Romans 14:13 So let's stop condemning each other. Decide instead to live in such a way that you will not cause another believer to stumble and fall.
  - Some people misunderstand what Paul is saying here. Paul is not saying, "If your freedom irritates another Christian, give up your freedom."
  - A "stumbling-block" literally means anything laid in a man's path, over which he may fall. In the Scriptures, however, the word is used commonly in a figurative sense to denote anything which shall cause him to "sin," as sin is often represented by "falling;" And the passage means that we should resolve to act so as not "by any means" to be the occasion of leading our brethren into sin, either by our example, or by a severe and harsh judgment, provoking them to anger, or exciting jealousies, and envying's, and suspicions. **Barnes Notes**
  - People are watching us! Christian and none Christian!
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## 2. Avoid violating your conscience or asking others to do so.

- Romans 14:14 I know and am convinced on the authority of the Lord Jesus that no food, in and of itself, is wrong to eat. But if someone believes it is wrong, then for that person it is wrong. 15 And if another believer is distressed by what you eat, you are not acting in love if you eat it. Don't let your eating ruin someone for whom Christ died. 16 Then you will not be criticized for doing something you believe is good.
  - Although Paul agrees theologically with those who say that there's no such thing as unclean food, he warns us that this issue is not just about theology. **There are relationships at stake in this issue.** Probably, Paul is here echoing Jesus' teaching that it's not what goes into a person that makes that person unclean, but that it's what comes out of the heart that defiles us.
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### **3. Live under God's rule, not self-rule**

- Romans 14:17 For the Kingdom of God is not a matter of what we eat or drink, but of living a life of goodness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. 18 If you serve Christ with this attitude, you will please God, and others will approve of you, too.
  - God's kingdom, living under God's rule is what following Jesus is all about! But it is not following a list of rules. It is entering into a relationship with God through Jesus.
  - When Jesus has forgiven me and become the leader of my life, I no longer have the final word in my life. The Lord does! He is my King! He is my Lord! He gives me grace, mercy to give to others, peace that passes understanding, and joy that comes from being right with Him!
  - When Jesus is the ruler of your life, and we break free from selfish, egocentric living, God is pleased, and even those around us notice the difference.
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#### 4. Do whatever leads to peace and to mutual edification

- Romans 14:19 So then, let us aim for harmony in the church and try to build each other up. Don't tear apart the work of God over what you eat. Remember, all foods are acceptable, but it is wrong to eat something if it makes another person stumble. 21 It is better not to eat meat or drink wine or do anything else if it might cause another believer to stumble.
  - “So let’s agree to use all our energy in getting along with each other.”
  - “Build each other up” and “tear apart” are both construction terms!
  - Our actions have an impact on the Church!
  - Not Separated – Distancing ourselves
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## 5. Personal convictions need not always be shared

- Romans 14:22 You may believe there's nothing wrong with what you are doing, but keep it between yourself and God. Blessed are those who don't feel guilty for doing something they have decided is right.
  - It's helpful for me to remember that “my response is my responsibility and your response is your responsibility.” In his book called, *Grace Awakening*, Chuck Swindoll quotes an unknown author:
    - To let go doesn't mean to stop caring; it means I can't do it for someone else.
    - To let go is not to cut myself off; it's the realization that I can't control another.
    - To let go is not to try to change or blame another; I can only change myself.
    - To let go is not to judge, but to allow another to be a human being.
    - To let go is not to be in the middle arranging all outcomes, but to allow others to effect their own outcomes.
    - To let go is not to deny, but to accept.
    - To let go is not to nag, scold, or argue, but to search out my own shortcomings and to correct them.
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## 6. Live by Faith

- Romans 14:23 But if you have doubts about whether or not you should eat something, you are sinning if you go ahead and do it. For you are not following your convictions. If you do anything you believe is not right, you are sinning. NLT
- Living by conviction or preference!

## 7. Jesus our supreme example

- Romans 15:1-8 We who are strong must be considerate of those who are sensitive about things like this. We must not just please ourselves. 2 We should help others do what is right and build them up in the Lord. 3 For even Christ didn't live to please himself. As the Scriptures say, "The insults of those who insult you, O God, have fallen on me." 4 Such things were written in the Scriptures long ago to teach us. And the Scriptures give us hope and encouragement as we wait patiently for God's promises to be fulfilled. 5 May God, who gives this patience and encouragement, help you live in complete harmony with each other, as is fitting for followers of Christ Jesus. 6 Then all of you can join together with one voice, giving praise and glory to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. 7 Therefore, accept each other just as Christ has accepted you so that God will be given glory. NLT
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**Romans 15:1-2** We who are strong **have an obligation to bear with** the failings of the weak, and not to please ourselves. ESV

- Jesus was, and is our supreme example - Mark 10:45, 2 Corinthians 8:9, Philippians 2:5-8
  - As the late Ravi Zacharias always used to say, ***“Unity need not be uniformity.”***
  - A.W. Tozer in his book The Pursuit of God.
  - We see more division around us every day, party lines, racial tensions, riots tear our cities and nation apart, “CANCEL CULTURE” is rampant, may the church of our Lord Jesus not fall victim to the same.
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